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DE PLATONICIS MYTHIS. Thesim Facultati Litterarum Parisiensi. Proponebat *Ludovicus Couturat*. Paris: Felix Alcan. 1896. Pages, 119.

SUR UNE NOUVELLE MÉTHODE POUR DÉTERMINER LA CHRONOLOGIE DES DIALOGUES DE PLATON. Mémoire lu le 16 Mai, 1896, à l'Institut de France, devant L'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. By *W. Lutoslawski*. Paris: H. Welter. 1896. Pages, 34. Price, 2 Fr.

The work of M. Louis Couturat forms a thesis presented to the Faculty of Letters at Paris. In examining the contradictions of the traditional conception of the Platonic doctrines, which students of the subject have left unexplained, the author has noted that the majority of the difficulties spring from the comparison of texts embodying mythical views with purely didactic passages of the Dialogues, and that consequently a criticism of the Platonic myths should precede every expressed interpretation of Plato's doctrines. Thus he has remarked that many passages which interpreters have taken as the dogmatic expression of Plato's thought, are obviously expressions of irony or allegory on the philosopher's part. To distinguish between the two species of expression, therefore, he has first subjected to scrutiny the actual myths of Plato, and with the criteria thus gathered has proceeded to the investigation of all anomalous passages, hoping to prove by his tests that the same are allegorical utterances. He has thus constructed from the actual myths a working allegorical vocabulary for the interpretation of Plato's veiled myths, and has found that God, the idea of divinity, the idea of reminiscence, the pre-existence and survival of the soul, all belong to this category. The circulation and perusal of M. Couturat's thesis will not be enhanced by its being written in Latin.

While upon this subject attention should be called to a little brochure by W. Lutoslawski, Professor at the University of Kazan, on a new method of determining the chronology of the Dialogues of Plato, being a memoir read in May last before the Institute of France. Professor Lutoslawski gives here a brief outline of his comprehensive labors in this field, which to the special student will be of undoubted interest. As Professor Lutoslawski is at work upon an English volume, to be published by Longmans, and containing the full elaboration of his views, it is unnecessary for us to say anything more than that his researches are based upon the stylistic differences of the Platonic Dialogues as corroborated by the method of "logical comparisons" treated in this memoir.

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A MACHINE FOR SOLVING NUMERICAL EQUATIONS.

A curious machine for the mechanical solution of equations, invented by Mr. George B. Grant of Boston, Mass., is described in the *American Machinist* for Sept. 3, 1896 (New York: 256 Broadway), which is of considerable theoretical interest, and if the delicacy of its construction bears out its author's claims, is not without practical importance. Five scale-beams, pivoted on parallel sliding car-